

House Republican Press Release

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Portion of Route 34 To Be Named in Honor of Fallen Hero



*SSG Thomas E. Vitagliano Highway To Be
Dedicated At Ceremony In Orange*

ORANGE- On January 17, 2005, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Thomas Vitagliano made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of his country. Killed in action in Ramadi, Iraq, by an improvised explosive device, the New Haven soldier became the 23rd person with Connecticut ties to lose his life in Iraq or Afghanistan since March 2002. He was thirty-three years old.

This week a portion of Route 34 will be named in honor of Vitagliano in a brief ceremony at the Orange Town Hall. SSG Vitagliano grew up in Orange and West Haven, and graduated from Notre Dame High School.

“It is a small gesture, but an important one that says we will never forget Thomas Vitagliano, or the sacrifice he made in the defense of our freedom,” said Representative Themis Klarides, who introduced the legislation naming the portion of highway.

The ceremony will take place at Orange Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. on August 31st. Vitagliano’s family will be presented with a replica of the Route 34 sign.